

**Reminder: *Steel shot is required on all GPA's and WPA's
ERD is closed: ANY DEER tags DO NOT convert for the
late season!!!**

Aurora County

Lynn Geuke



Fishing report:

Wilmarth Mitchell: No report. Stay off the ice until the weekend. Advise no vehicle use on the ice. **NO VEHICLES OFF ROAD.**

Reminder: The minimum length limit on Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass in the lake is 15"
THE ENTIRE LAKE OF WILMARTH IS A NO WAKE ZONE!

Nelson Lake: No report. **NO VEHICLES DRIVING OFF ROADS.**



Hunting report: Pheasants should be bunched up with the snow cover. Not much activity seen lately.

Beadle County

Chris Kuntz



Fishing Report: No activity. Use caution if you are on the ice.

James River: No activity.

Lake Byron: No activity.

Mud Lake: No activity.

Cavour Lake: Reports of a few crappies being caught in the evening hours.

Ravine: No activity.



Hunting Report: Pheasant hunters have had decent success. Snow cover has made birds easier to locate.

Remember to make sure you are at least 660ft away from any occupied dwelling, livestock, church or school when road hunting.

Bon Homme County

Todd Crownover



Fishing Report

Missouri River: Ice conditions vary. Warm weather had most of the water open over the weekend. Venturing onto the ice would not be advise this week.

Lake Henry: Beware of ice thickness. Lake was almost completely open over the weekend.

Remember bass size is 15 inches.

Clear Lake: No report.

Merkel Lake (Singleton GPA): No report.

Heritage GPA: No activity.



Hunting Report: Pheasant hunters are having better success with the snow cover. Ducks and geese have mostly moved on. Some resident geese are still around near the river. Youth deer hunters have been having some more success.

Brookings County

Jeff Grendler



Fishing Reports:

Lake Sinai: Fishing has been slow.

West Lake Oakwood: Slow.

East Oakwood: Slow.

Oak Lake: No activity.

Brush Lake: A few perch biting through the ice. 10-12 inches.

Lake Poinsett: A few walleyes and the occasional perch. Fishing has been slow.

East 81 ponds: A few walleyes have been caught 14-16 inches. A few perch have been caught 10-12 inches.

Lake Hendricks: Slow, little to no activity.

Lake Goldsmith: Slow little to no activity.

Lake Campbell: No Activity.

Dakota Nature Park: Slow.

Interstate Lake: Slow.



Hunting Report: Pheasant hunters should concentrate on areas with dense cover for same late season pheasant hunting.

Clay County

Tony Stokely



Fishing Report: Warmer temps have made for bad ice.

Missouri River: No activity.

Vermillion River: No activity.



Hunting Report: Still some waterfowl opportunity but not much hunting pressure along Missouri river. Pheasant hunting pressure is minimal. Deer hunting pressure is minimal. Landowner Only antlerless deer licenses will be valid in Clay county from December 27th – January 4th.

Davison County

Andy Petersen



Fishing Report: Ice is new and thin in a lot of areas. Use extreme caution.

Remember Firesteel Creek is off limits to the taking of any baitfish.

Lake Mitchell: No report.

James River: No report.



Hunting Report: Hunters are having decent success. This snow cover will help concentrate birds.

Hanson County

Andy Petersen/Matt Talbert



Fishing Report: Ice is new and thin in a lot of areas. Use extreme caution.

Lake Hanson: No Report

Ethan Dam: No Report

James River: No Report



Hunting Report: Hunters are having decent success. This snow cover will help concentrate birds.

Hutchinson County

Brian Humphrey



Fishing: No fishing activity observed. Poor ice conditions.



Hunting: Pheasant hunting continues to be good in areas with good habitat. Deer hunting success has been slow.

Jerauld County

Lynn Geuke



Fishing Report: No report.



Hunting Report: Hunting has been slow. Look for pheasants to be bunched up in areas of dense cover. "Antlerless only" season starts December 27th.

Kingsbury County

Shane Van Bockern



Fishing Reports: No activity

Lake Thompson: Slow-fair MIXED BAG of walleye, perch, crappie, and northern pike.

West 81: Slow-fair success on perch and walleye.

Lake Whitewood: Fair-good for perch, northern and a few walleye.

Lake Henry: Slow- for walleye and pike.

Lake Albert: Slow for walleye and pike.

Spirit Lake: Slow.

Lake Preston: No activity.



Hunting Report: Pheasant hunters having moderate success hunting heavy cattail slough areas.

Lake County

Cody Symens



Fishing Report: Ice conditions vary from 4-9".

Lake Madison: Anglers are catching a few small walleye and small perch, no keepers at this time.

Lake Herman: Minimal angling pressure with little success.

Brant Lake: Minimal angling pressure.

Long Lake: No report.

Lake Henry: Anglers are catching a few walleye but pressure is relatively low.

Lake George: Small walleye in the 6" range, minimal pressure.



Hunting Report: Deer hunters are doing well in the area. Several nice bucks have been harvested this year. If you possess a valid tag, be sure to obtain permission for private land.

Lincoln County

Nate Stukel



Fishing Report: With warm temps last week and rain, the ice conditions are iffy. Use caution!!

Big Sioux: The ice is not safe on the river this time of year. No fishing activity.

Hudson: Very little ice fishing pressure up to this point. Ice conditions are not great and caution is advised.

Lake Alvin: A few anglers have been observed on the ice at Lake Alvin. Ice conditions can vary greatly on Lake Alvin so anglers should be very cautious this early in the year.

Lake Lakota: Very little ice fishing pressure up to this point. Ice conditions are not great and caution is advised.



Hunting Report:

Pheasants: Birds have bunched up a bit and public land opportunity does exist in the county if an individual is willing to do some walking.

Deer: Archery and youth hunters should begin keying in on wintering areas.

McCook County

Matt Talbert



Fishing Report:

Lake Vermillion: Minimal activity.

Island Lake: Minimal activity.

Lehrman Slough: No fishing activity seen.



Hunting Report: Pheasant hunters are still finding a few birds here and there. Deer hunters have had some success.

Miner County

Evan Meyer



Fishing Report: No activity.



Hunting Report: Pheasant hunters are still finding birds. Reminder of road hunting regulations when it pertains to cattle!!!!

Minnehaha County

Jared Hill



Fishing Report: Ice conditions vary across the county.

Beaver Lake: Minimal activity.

Scott Slough: Minimal activity.

Island Lake: Minimal activity.

Loss Lake: Minimal activity.

Lost Lake: Minimal activity.

Twin Lakes: A few anglers have tried their luck but nothing big to report. **(REMEMBER: 28 inch minimum on Walleyes.)**

Family Park: Be wary of ice conditions.

Wall Lake: Be wary of ice conditions.

Clear Lake: No reports.



Hunting Report: There are a few pockets of geese and ducks around Sioux Falls but mostly on private property. **Reminder – Be aware of where you are and what around you when hunting.**

Moody County

Chad Williams



Fishing Report:

Big Sioux River: No activity.



Hunting Report: The archery and muzzleloader deer season is still underway, with the colder weather and snow cover deer are starting to move to their winter grounds along the Big Sioux River. A key to success in harvesting a deer late in the year after rifle season is to find good cover / shelter close to food sources.

Pheasant season is still underway and birds are found in bigger groups in the dense cattails and grass cover. Birds tend to be more skittish during this time of year.

Hunters are reminded that rifle deer season is closed and will not open back up for antlerless deer. There were no antlerless deer tags issued in Moody County and the any deer tags do not convert over to antlerless tags.

Sanborn County

Evan Meyer



Fishing Report: Fishing activity has been minimal in the county.



Hunting Report: Pheasant hunters are still finding birds. Reminder of road hunting regulations when it pertains to cattle!!!!

Turner County

Brian Humphrey



Fishing Report: No fishing activity observed. Poor ice conditions.



Hunting: Heard reports of a few nice deer in the Centerville area that have been harvested. Pheasant hunting has been slow in Turner county.

Union County

Tony Stokely / Nate Stukel



Fishing Report:

Missouri River: Little activity but some success for Walleye from boats.

Big Sioux River: No activity.

McCook Lake: No activity.

Reminder: There must be a wearable lifejacket of appropriate size for everybody on board your boat.



Hunting Report: Still some waterfowl opportunity but not much hunting pressure along Missouri river. Pheasant hunting pressure is minimal. Deer hunting pressure is minimal. Landowner Only antlerless deer licenses will be valid in Union county from December 27th – January 4th.

Yankton County

Dan Altman



Fishing Report:

Marindahl: No activity.

Lewis and Clark: Unstable ice/no activity.

James River: No activity.

Lake Yankton: **DEAD!!!**

Missouri River: No activity.



Hunting Report: Pheasant - Birds have moved to heavy cover with recent snowfall. Cattail sloughs and shelterbelts are most effective to hunt.

Waterfowl - The low plains south duck zone remains open. Open water on Lewis and Clark Lake has kept some birds in the area.

Deer - archery deer season remains open in Yankton County. Deer have started winter feeding and bedding patterns and have started to bunch up.